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THE HEROIC LIFE OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN





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LINCOLN RAIL SPLITTER

Brooklyn, 3d series, 1862

THE HEROIC LIFE

OF

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Great Emancipator

ILLUSTRATED

In Black and White and with Colored Plates



BOSTON

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THE HEROIC LIFE OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

EARLY DAYS

As the years roll by, the character and life of Abraham Lincoln stand out in grander and more heroic proportions. Boys and girls, as we have told you of Washington, the "Father of his Country," we want now to tell you of the great

man who from the humblest surroundings and the most unlikely beginning, became President of the United States of America, and piloted this country through the greatest crisis in her history.

In a rude log cabin near Nolin Creek in what is now the State of Kentucky, but which at that time was a part of the State of Virginia, was born Abraham Lincoln, the son of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. The father was a lazy ne'er-do-well, but the mother was a woman of great force of character and passionately fond of reading.



LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE

Abraham was the firstborn, and then there was a sister Sarah, a year younger than he; then came Thomas two years later, who died in infancy.

The first schooling Abraham got was from his mother, who taught his sister and him to spell and to read. When in his seventh year he went to school in the little log school-house near his home.

But Thomas Lincoln, the father, heard of the rich and fertile lands of Indiana, which had recently been admitted into the Union, and the tales of the Indians so inspired him that he pulled up stakes and started for the new home, which to them was "the Land of Promise." With all their household stuff packed on two horses, they made their way, by night sleeping on the fragrant pine twigs, clearing their way through tangled thickets and fording the streams. At last after a week or more on the tiresome journey they came to the banks of the river and, looking over, they saw the almost trackless forest which was to be their home.

The family pushed their way forward, and on a grassy knoll in the heart of the untrodden forest they built their first rude cabin.

Abraham was now in his eighth year. He was tall, thin and gawky, and clad in frontier fashion. He said himself he never wore stockings until he was a young man grown.

In this log hut, in the first year of their frontier life, came their first great sorrow, the death of their mother, on the 3d of October. She was buried under the shade of a wide-spreading sycamore tree, and over her grave little Abe shed his first tears of real sorrow. Years after he would say with tear-dimmed eyes, "All I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother."

In the autumn of 1816, Thomas Lincoln, with the slight assistance little Abe could give him, felled the logs and "raised" a more substantial cabin.

In the fall of 1819 Thomas Lincoln went off, leaving the children to take care of themselves, and they heard nothing of him until one morning early in December the wanderer returned with a second wife, a Mrs. Sally Johnston. She was known to the children in Kentucky, so they warmly welcomed her and were good friends immediately. Of Abraham, the new mother said, in after years, "He never gave me a cross word and never refused to do anything I

asked of him"; and of her, Abraham said, "She was a noble woman, affectionate, good and kind woman, as I remember women in those days."

She gave Abe new clothes and taught him how to make the best and do the most with the few things he had, and encouraged him to read and study. He got hold of a volume of Cooper's "Leather Stocking Tales" and a volume



THE BOY LINCOLN STUDYING

of Burns's poems. He would read them over and over again in his favorite position, outstretched on the floor, his head on his hands.

Once he borrowed a book from an old farmer. It was a life of George Washington. For security it was kept between the logs of his cabin home, but one day the rain soaked in and spoiled the book. He took it to the farmer and asked how he could pay for it.

"Wall," said the old farmer, "I guess 'taint much account to me now. You haul fodder for three days and the book is yours."

So that's the way young Abe earned his first book, and in the fields or on the wood-pile when not working he might ever be seen, book in hand, reading.

But for all his love of reading he was the strongest boy in all the country

round, and although not quarrelsome he could throw any boy in the neighborhood. He was the champion wrestler, and leader in every game of muscular skill.

School was now within his reach. A school-house built of logs had been raised at Little Pigeon Creek, about a mile and one-half from Lincoln's home, and young Abe made the most of his opportunities.

At this time he split rails for the farmers, and with his book in one hand, his eyes fixed on the page, his trusty axe in the other, he stalked along to his place of employment.

At the age of seventeen an incident occurred which no doubt had an influence on his future life. No one can help noticing the rude, rough yet happy and humorous eloquence which characterized all Lincoln's lightest utterances as well as his greater speeches.

Happening in the vicinity of the court house at Booneville, Warwick County, he heard the first great speech of his life from Breckenridge, the great lawyer of Kentucky. As he passed out of the court house, the lawyer was accosted by a tall, gawky youth of the poor farmer class, who with outstretched hand addressed the eminent lawyer, and thanked him for his wonderful speech. The aristocratic Breckenridge, with eyes uplifted in surprise, brushed the stranger aside.

This gave Lincoln a taste for speechifying and he debated on every local topic and sometimes would get up mock trials, being in turn prosecuting attorney, counsel for the defence, or judge.

When about eighteen years of age he built a boat, loaded it with bacon and "garden truck" and paddled his cranky craft to the nearest trading post.

After he had sold his little cargo a steamer—to him an unusual sight—approached in the river. Two men asked him to take them to the boat and to his surprise paid him in two silver half dollars. He could scarcely believe he had earned a whole dollar in so short a time.

One year later Lincoln made his second voyage. A Mr. Gentry, the big trader of the village, who wished to send a load of produce to New Orleans in a flat-bottomed square boat, made the offer to young Lincoln, who accepted, as he afterwards said, with a beating heart, in the delight of seeing the world.

Accompanied by young Gentry he cut loose from Gentryville, and began a voyage of eighteen hundred miles, young Abe working the forward oar to guide the boat through the currents and avoid snags. They passed and were passed by other boats with but little incident, but one night when they were tied up to a bank and sleeping soundly after the toilsome day, some negroes tried to plunder the craft, but Abe woke at once and the first one who jumped on board was knocked into the river by a heavy blow from Abraham's fist; a second and a third were served the same way. The others made off, with Abe and young Gentry in pursuit, but the negroes eventually got away.

SETTLEMENT IN ILLINOIS

AGAIN the Lincolns moved westward, this time to Illinois. Thomas Hanks had settled in Macon County and had written Lincoln to come on with his family. Lincoln did not want much persuading, so he sold out his hogs and crops and farm improvements to Mr. Gentry in the spring of 1830. The entire family set out for the new "Land of Promise," for it was ever a land of promise to Thomas Lincoln.

After two weeks of wearying travel they arrived at the settlement selected for them on public lands by Thomas Hanks. Young Lincoln lent a willing hand to the raising of the new house, and with Thomas Hanks ploughed the acres, cut down trees, split rails and fenced in his father's new Illinois farm.

Abraham, now twenty-two years old, thought it about time to strike out for himself.

During the summer he worked at odd jobs and soon got in favor with the rude pioneers of southern Illinois and made a name for himself as the most obliging, ungainly, strong and cheery fellow in the county.

The winter was memorable for its deep snow, which long after the following spring left its traces, unmelted, stretching across the black soil of the prairies.

Young Lincoln made the acquaintance of Denton Offut, a small trader, and he proposed that Lincoln and Hanks should take a boat-load of provisions to New Orleans. They were to have their food, fifty cents per day and twenty dollars each out of the profits.

When the boat reached New Salem it stuck on a mill-dam, and the population turned out to see and chaff the wrecked mariners; but the "bow oar" rolled up his trousers, waded into the stream, unloaded the boat, bored holes in her bottom to let out the water and then rigged up a contrivance to hoist her over the dam. The holes were plugged, the boat loaded and the adventurous boatmen shot down stream amidst the cheers of the crowd.

They had a prosperous journey to New Orleans and Lincoln saw many of the evils of slavery. Men and women were torn from their families and from each other. These sights made him in after years the "Emancipator."

On his return from the trip Offut put him in charge of a small country store at New Salem. He was immovable from his strict notions of honesty in his dealings. Once when he made up his accounts he found that he had overcharged a customer a few cents. Late at night after he had closed the store he walked a long way to pay over the difference. Another time he had given a woman less weight than she had paid for; he took her the balance.

In that day men were not as chivalrous and careful for women as they might have been, and there were bullies then as always. There were a lot of the boys, as they were termed, really overgrown young men, fighting, swaggering, roisterers, of a place called Clary's Grove, and they thought that the stranger at Offut's, who was well liked by the women, should be taken down a peg or two and the conceit knocked out of him.

They chose Jack Armstrong, the bully of the gang, to get him into a wrestling match. Their champion was no match for Lincoln, and Jack Armstrong, in his desperation, tried foul means, but Lincoln, putting forth his giant strength, seized him and shook him as a dog would a rat, then flung him over his head. The crowd at this would have broken in on him, but Armstrong stopped them,

saying, "Abe Lincoln is the best fellow that ever came into this settlement," and ever after Lincoln had no truer friend than Jack Armstrong.

Lincoln, though no fighter, feared no one, neither was he addicted to any of the rude vices of the period; he never gambled, played cards or swore. He was reckoned a hero, was liked by the women and respected by the elders as a



LINCOLN STEERING THE FLATBOAT TO NEW ORLEANS

rising young man. His title of honor was "Honest Abe," and Offut's store door was the scene of many an arbitration settlement, and where argument failed those windmill arms finally brought peace.

Offut's store at length shut up. The proprietor's ventures had proved too many for him, and Lincoln was out of a job. One day at the bottom of a barrel of trash Lincoln found two old law-books. He never quitted those books until he had mastered their contents. In the little community, it was agreed that Abe Lincoln could out-argue any ten men.

THE BLACK HAWK WAR

LINCOLN now determined to try politics and became a candidate for the Legislature, but before the day of the election volunteers were called for to repel the hostile Indians who, with the famous chief Black Hawk, were on the war-path.

Lincoln was among the first to volunteer, and with a party of the Clary's Grove boys made his way north, and when the company was organized in Rushville he was made captain, for the Clary's Grove boys would have none other as their leader.

One day an old Indian came into camp with a safe-conduct from General Cass. The soldiers, maddened by recent atrocities of the Indians, would have slain the old man, but Lincoln stood before him and stopped them, saying, "Boys, you must not do this thing. You shall not shoot the Indian." The men sullenly lowered their guns, subdued by the courage of their captain.

Lincoln was the advance guard of all scouting parties. His keen sight and subtle woodcraft gave him an insight into Indian strategy that might have emulated some of the trappers in the "Leather Stocking Tales" of his youthful days.

But the war, which was not much of a war, was soon over. When Lincoln was in Congress, in 1848, General Cass was candidate for the Presidency, and his friends tried to run him on his war record. Lincoln, who, as you know, was full of rugged humor, in the course of the debate addressed the chair. He said:

"Did you know, Mr. Speaker, I am a military hero? In the days of the Black Hawk War I fought, bled, and came away. I was not at Stillman's defeat, but I was about as near it as General Cass was to Hull's surrender; and, like him, I saw the place very soon afterwards. It is quite certain I did not break my sword, for I had none to break, but I bent my musket pretty badly on one

occasion. If General Cass went in advance of me picking whortleberries, I guess I surpassed him in charges on the wild onions. If he saw any live fighting Indians, it was more than I did, but I had a good many bloody struggles with the mosquitoes; and although I never fainted from loss of blood, I can truly say I was often very hungry. Mr. Speaker, if ever I should conclude to doff whatever our Democratic friends may suppose there is of black-cockade Federalism about me, and thereupon they shall take me up as their candidate for the Presidency, I protest that they shall not make fun of me, as they have of General Cass, by attempting to write me into a military hero."



LINCOLN KEEPING STORE

IN NEW SALEM

Soon after Lincoln's return from the Black Hawk War, the election came on. He received a majority of votes in New Salem, his two opponents receiving 206 votes to his 207. Though he was defeated in the whole county, his popularity in his own district pleased him very much.

Lincoln now had to turn to something for a living, and he bought out on

a note the store of a man who was so unpopular to the Clary's Grove boys that they broke in the windows. In this enterprise Lincoln had a partner, an idle, dissolute fellow of the name of Berry, and in a very short time the stock had to be sold out in lots to close the concern.

Lincoln was again out of a job, and in his extremity he turned to law. Whenever there was any law wanted all his neighbors went to Lincoln, who never took up a case unless he was satisfied that it was a right one. Together with law he joined a little surveying, and Mr. John Calhoun, the county surveyor, was a useful friend to him.

In May, 1833, Abraham Lincoln was appointed postmaster of New Salem. The work was light and the revenue as light as the work, but he took part of his salary out in reading the newspapers before they could be called for. In later years the post-office was discontinued and the agent of the department called for the small balance due the Government—seventeen dollars and a few cents. A neighbor, Dr. A. G. Henry, fearing from his extreme poverty that Lincoln might not have the money, offered to lend it to him. "Hold hard," said Lincoln, "and let's see how we come out," and bringing out an old stocking from his bedroom, poured out the contents and there, in pennies and small silver pieces, was the exact money as he had received it.

The debts of the New Salem store pressed on him, and the sheriff seized his horse and harness and sold it out. His steadfast friend, Bolin Greene, was present and bought and gave them back to Lincoln, to his great relief, saying, "Take them, Abe; pay for them when you can, and if you never can it's all the same to me."

Not long afterward, Greene died and Lincoln was asked to pronounce the funeral eulogy, but tears choked his utterance and he sat down without uttering a word; his silent tears spoke more eloquently than words.

ELECTED TO THE LEGISLATURE

LINCOLN tried politics again in 1834, and this time he headed the four successful candidates. He was now twenty-five years old; he had mastered the elements of law, was versed in legal phraseology and law terms, and knew all the country roads.

His library consisted principally of the Bible, Shakespere, "The Pilgrim's Progress," the "Life of George Washington," and Æsop's Fables — not a great library, but he made full use of it.

Lincoln, in his blue jeans, with his great height (then six feet four inches), was a marked figure in the Legislature. Though seldom speaking, he was keenly alive to all that went on. He was learning and waiting patiently till his time came.

The next year he was again elected with the largest vote of any successful candidate. During his canvass, he had a tiff with Forquier, who had been brought in to boom Lincoln's Democratic opponent. Forquier from a Whig had become a "whole-hog Jackson man." Forquier's house had a lightning-rod conductor. Forquier spoke before Lincoln, ridiculing Lincoln's dress, manners and personal appearance, and styled him the uncouth youngster. Lincoln closed the debate. Rising, with flashing eyes, he said, "I am not so young in years as I am in the tricks and trades of a politician; but live long or die young, I would rather die now than, like that gentleman, change my politics, and with the change receive an office worth three thousand dollars a year, and then feel obliged to erect a lightning-rod conductor over my house to protect a guilty conscience from an offended God." The effect on his hearers was immense. Whenever Forquier afterwards addressed the voters they said, "That's the man who has a lightning-rod on his house to keep off the vengeance of the Almighty."

In April, 1837, Lincoln rode into Springfield, the new capital of the State. He proposed to establish himself in the practice of law. He asked his friend,

Mr. Joshua F. Speed, what he should do for board and lodging. Speed replied, "I have a large double bed which you may share with me if you choose."

"Where is your bed?" asked Lincoln. "Upstairs," replied Speed. Lincoln took his saddle-bags upstairs in which were all his earthly possessions, and soon came down again and said with a good-humored laugh, "Speed, I am moved."

Lincoln, as was usual with lawyers, rode horseback making the circuit, following the judge and carrying in his saddle-bag a change of underclothes and a few law-books. It was on these journeys Lincoln picked out from all classes the stories of the wild West which afterwards made him so famous as a storyteller.

Lincoln retained his reputation as "Honest Abe," never if he knew it taking up a doubtful case, nor would he resort to legal technicalities to win a case.

In 1840 Harrison was elected. The "log cabin" campaign had been fought. The Democrats were beaten, and the Whigs, after a long recess, were returned to power.

November 4th of that year, Lincoln married a Miss Todd, a bright and roguish young lady with whom he had long been acquainted, but had not possessed means sufficient to marry. The young couple lodged at a modest boarding house called the Globe Tavern, not far from the State House. That Lincoln's means, even then, were not very large may be gathered from a letter to a friend, in which when speaking of his new happiness, and of the cheapness of living, he said it only cost four dollars a week for board and lodging.

Lincoln long had the ambition to go to Congress, but it happened that all his Whig friends seemed equally desirous to leave Sangamon County. In 1843 Lincoln was a delegate to the convention and was instructed to vote for Edward D. Baker. He remarked good-humoredly, "I shall be a good deal like the fellow who is made groomsman to the man who cut him out and is marrying the girl."

LINCOLN IN CONGRESS

LINCOLN was nominated for Congress in 1846, and his ambition was within his reach. He was elected over his opponent on the Democratic ticket, Cartwright, a backwoods preacher, and who was very popular, by a majority of 1,611



LINCOLN WRESTLING WITH ARMSTRONG

Lincoln was elected to the Thirtieth Congress, and took his seat the 6th of December, 1847. James K. Polk was President of the United States, and in his message to Congress he endeavored to show that the war with Mexico was just and that his conduct was right in all that he had done to make that war inevitable. Lincoln introduced three resolutions asking the President for information. In each of these he made use of the word spot, referring to the place in which certain American citizens had been killed. The defendants of the war and of the position taken by the President could not reply to the backwoods lawyer from Illinois; they called him "Spot Lincoln." In his

speech in reply, he severely arraigned the administration for the annexation of Texas, which had involved the country in a bloody and unjust war with Mexico.

Lincoln took part in most of the debates, and his speeches were always to the point and showed considerable humor. Speaking of General Lewis Cass, who was to be the Democratic candidate for President, and of his operations on the Canadian border, he said, "he *invaded* Canada without resistance, and he *outvaded* without pursuit."

In 1848 General Taylor was nominated at Philadelphia for President by the Whigs. Lincoln was a delegate to the convention and was an enthusiastic supporter of the General — the hero of Buena Vista. The General's manners were blunt and abrupt, and earned him the appellation of "Rough and Ready," which was made the battle-cry of the campaign. The Electoral College gave Taylor 163 against 137 for Cass.

Taylor now being President, and according to the maxim, "To the victors belong the spoils," all Democrats had to give place to the Whigs. Lincoln tried for the office of Commissioner of the General Land Office. To the surprise of himself and his friends, he was refused, but a consolation prize was offered, that of Governorship of Oregon. At his wife's advice he refused the bait.

Of Lincoln's family of four sons, Robert Todd, the Secretary of War under Garfield and Arthur, is the only survivor. Edward Baker, the second, died in infancy. The third died in his father's Presidency, and the fourth died at the age of nineteen, after his father's assassination.

His father lived to see his "speechifying" son one of the best known lawyers of the State, and was helped by him as soon as his load of debt was lifted, and other members of the family he helped from his frugal means. In a letter to his step-brother Abraham wrote, "At the various times when I have helped you a little, you have said to me, 'We can get along very well now,' but in a short time I find you in the same difficulty."

His care for his step-mother is seen in a letter to his step-brother. He says, "The eastern forty acres I intend to keep for mother while she lives. If you will not cultivate it, it will rent for enough to support her." He urges him "to go to work as the only cure for his case."



LINCOLN IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR

LINCOLN THE LAWYER

It has already been said that "Lincoln disdained all legal quibbles"; he relied always on the justice of his case, and won his suit by close argument, depending on the idea of justice in the jury.

For instance, an old man named Case brought suit for a note given by the "Snow boys" for three yoke of oxen and a "breaking plough." The defence set up was a plea of infancy. Lincoln admitted the plea, but brought out that the Snow boys were still using the oxen and the plough, and then addressing the jury said:

"Gentlemen, the Judge will tell you what your own sense of justice has already told you, that these Snow boys, if they were mean enough to plead the baby act, when they came to be men would have taken the oxen and plough back; they cannot go back on their contract, and also keep what the note was given for."

The jury without leaving their seats gave a verdict for Lincoln's client.

Lincoln had several important slavery cases. A very notable one was the case of a negro girl who had been sold as a slave and a note taken in payment. The note was not raised, suit was brought to recover the amount, and judgment was given for the plaintiff. The case was taken to the Supreme Court, and Lincoln, who appeared for the maker of the note, contended that, as the consideration for the note was a human being, and under the laws of Illinois could not be bought and sold, the note was void. The Court reversed the judgment. Lincoln was then thirty-two years old, and his connection with so important a suit, as well as the novelty of the plea, added no little to his reputation.

You will remember the big bully Jack Armstrong, one of the Clary's Grove boys, whom Lincoln defeated in wrestling and who afterwards became Lincoln's warm friend. He died, and his widow came to Lincoln to seek his aid for her son, William D. Armstrong, who was in prison for murder. Lincoln at once took up the case, sifted all the facts thoroughly and became quite

assured that the boy was innocent. The evidence was mostly circumstantial, but one witness swore to too much. He swore that "he saw the prisoner inflict the fatal blow with a sling shot by the light of the moon, which was shining brightly."

Lincoln tore the evidence to pieces, showed that the whole case was a conspiracy against young Armstrong, and when he came to the evidence of the man who swore that he saw "the blow being given by the light of the moon, which was shining brightly," Lincoln called for an almanac, which showed that on the night of the murder there was no moon. This settled the matter. The jury at once returned a verdict of not guilty, and Bill Armstrong was free.

Lincoln refused to receive any compensation from the grateful mother.

As a lawyer Lincoln was without any of the graces of oratory, and had a harsh, shrill voice, which was combined with a homely, not to say ungainly, appearance. It was only when the inspiration of his subject aroused him that his eyes flashed fire, his whole figure changed and he seemed, as one of his auditors said, "to be about twenty feet high."

DOUGLAS AND LINCOLN

IN 1850 Lincoln's father died. Lincoln was unable through stress of public affairs and his own private concerns to go to see him. He wrote to his step-brother telling him to press on his father to "remember to call upon and confide in our great and good and merciful Father and Maker, who will not turn from him in any extremity."

At this time, slavery seemed fixed as a part of our national institutions. Congress had enacted a series of acts which greatly discouraged Lincoln and all the anti-slavery party, but in 1854 there was a great awakening. Kansas and Nebraska were clamoring for admittance, and Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois introduced a bill, admitting the two Territories, but leaving the

question of slavery to be settled by the voters in defiance of the Missouri Compromise, which prohibited slavery in those Territories. The act was passed through Congress May 8, 1854, amid great popular excitement. The whole Northern States were fired with indignation and Douglas was denounced as a political trickster who had sold himself to gain the support of the slave States in his candidacy for President.

Douglas defended himself with great skill and the most brazen audacity, contending that the popular will should be sovereign and determine for or against slavery in each State. The question was to be left to the settlers on a Territory, who were called squatters, and the Douglas party invented as a campaign cry the phrase "squatter sovereignty."

Then began the struggle to gain possession of the new Territory. Kansas was the great objective point, as being readiest of access, and received a large portion of the flow of immigration, but Missouri and Arkansas—both slave States—determined to save Kansas for slavery and swarmed over the borders.

Douglas undertook to speak at the Illinois State Agricultural Fair at Springfield in defence of the Kansas-Nebraska Act, and Lincoln was by common consent chosen as the best qualified to meet the Senator. Douglas was the avowed leader of the Western Democrats, and the head of his party in the North, where they had begun to call themselves "Douglas Democrats," and this was his supreme effort.

The next day Lincoln replied to him. Douglas interrupted him with impertinent questions to endeavor to break him down and get him rattled, but Lincoln said, "Gentlemen, I cannot afford to spend my time in quibble. I take the responsibility of asserting the truth myself, relieving Judge Douglas from the necessity of his impertinent corrections." Douglas allowed him to continue his speech without further interruption, which occupied over three hours in delivery.

In the course of his speech in answer to Douglas's favorite doctrine, that the right to introduce slavery into a Territory by the vote of the people was the right of popular sovereignty, and that it was an insult to the emigrants of Kansas and Nebraska to say that they were not able to govern themselves, Lincoln replied, "I admit that the emigrant to Kansas or Nebraska is competent to

govern himself, but I deny his right to govern any other person without that person's consent."

Douglas felt that he was beaten. Excited and angry, he took the platform, contended that he had been abused, and attempted to reply, but faltered, and at last said he would reply in the evening. But when the evening came, Douglas was conspicuous by his absence, and the promised reply was never made.

Kansas meanwhile was the battlefield of the Free Soil party, and in spite of all efforts by the pro-slavery men emigrants were pouring in from Iowa, New England and Illinois, and something had to be done to turn back the tide to the free States; the ballot-box stuffers who trooped over the border from Missouri and Kansas openly said "they would make it hot for any abolitionist," and that "they would cut out the heart of any man who voted the abolition ticket." Those border ruffians invaded the State, burning the cabins and fields of standing grain and devastating the country for miles.

In the elections the Free State men were no match for those border ruffians, who took possession of the polls and allowed no votes to be deposited except for slavery, while they stuffed the ballot-box with whole pages of names from the St. Louis directory. Outrages and personal violence were resorted to and the Free State men were lucky if they escaped with their lives.

BIRTH OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

THE trend of public events and public feeling had for some time shown that the Whig party was dying out and though Lincoln was still reckoned a Whig he only waited for a competent successor. He hesitated to throw himself into the ranks of the Free Soil party, but at length he took his stand as the champion for the abolition of slavery until in his own words, "The sun shall shine, the rain shall fall, and the wind shall blow upon no man who goes forth to unrequited toil."

But the long-looked-for came at last. A mass meeting was held at Bloomington, Ill., May 29, 1856, but they could not unite on any platform except hostility to slavery. In this extremity Lincoln was sent for. He at once said, "Let us, in building our new party, make our corner-stone the Declaration of Independence. Let us build on this rock and the gates of hell shall not prevail against us." This simple but sufficient platform was approved by all present and embodied in a resolution.



LINCOLN TELLING A STORY

The Republican party was born. Lincoln's speech thrilled and kindled the convention. One who was present said that never was an audience more completely electrified by human eloquence.

The first Republican National Convention was held at Philadelphia, June 17, 1856. John Charles Fremont, of California, was nominated for President, and William L. Dayton for Vice-President. Lincoln was proposed by the Illinois delegates, and he received 110 votes against Dayton's twenty-five. When

Lincoln heard of the votes cast for him he said, "That is probably the distinguished Mr. Lincoln, of Massachusetts." He had no idea of how his fame was spreading.

In the Democratic Convention, Stephen A. Douglas was beaten by Buchanan. In the election, Buchanan, as Lincoln predicted, was the people's choice with 174 electoral votes from fourteen slave States and five free States.

Douglas realizing that slavery was doomed, and desiring to have the support of the Illinois Republicans in his candidacy for a fresh term, began to differ with the President, but they distrusted the Senator and declared for Abraham Lincoln as their first and last and only choice for a Senator to succeed Douglas.

Lincoln did not underestimate the abilities and craftiness of his great opponent, and he knew that as yet the people were not fully ripe for human freedom, and he framed his speech to the convention that had nominated him, putting into it the platform of the campaign. Lincoln read his speech to his partner, Mr. W. H. Herndon. The first paragraph dismayed him, as it almost endorsed the old anti-slavery doctrine of disunion. Mr. Herndon doubted if the time was ripe for this utterance, alluding to the phrase—since famous—"A house divided against itself cannot stand." Lincoln replied, "The proposition has been true for six thousand years. I will deliver the speech as it is written."

The struggle was bitter. Douglas took up this speech of Lincoln's, claiming that it advocated a war of sections, between the North and South.

The two great points before the public were "the Dred Scott decision" and the struggle in Kansas. The Dred Scott decision, so called, arose from the decision of Chief Justice Tancy that, by the Constitution of the Republic, slavery existed in all the Territories and Congress had no right to prohibit it.

This decision was in the case of a negro of that name who had, with his wife and children, been carried into a Territory north of the Missouri, where slavery was excluded by the Missouri Compromise. He spoke for his freedom, claiming that he had become freed by the operation of the law.

Against the advice of his timorous friends Lincoln agreed to joint debates with Douglas, in which everybody felt he had the best of it, and Douglas

seemed to think so too. At one of these debates, Douglas was seized with a panic, left his seat and walked up and down, watch in hand, "his long grizzly hair like the shaggy locks of an enraged lion." The instant Lincoln's time was up he turned the face of the watch to Lincoln and cried, "Sit down, Lincoln, sit down; your time is up."

Lincoln calmly replied, "I will quit. I believe my time is up." Some one on the platform said, "Yes, let him up; Douglas has had enough."

In Lincoln's view the Dred Scott decision and Douglas's doctrine of popular sovereignty could not hold together, and Lincoln framed his questions so as to oblige Douglas to admit or deny the abstract rights of slavery. His friends urged him not to put the question, because they said Douglas would admit the justice of the decision, but that it should not be enforced in the Territories.

They said, "That is not your lookout; you are after the senatorship." "No, gentlemen," said Lincoln, "I am killing larger game; the battle of 1860 is worth a hundred of this."

When the returns were in, Lincoln had 126,048 votes, Douglas, 121,440. Douglas was subsequently elected by the Legislature, but the popular as well as the moral victory was Lincoln's.

"I AM KILLING LARGER GAME"

LINCOLN at once resumed his practice of the law. When asked by a friend how he felt at his defeat he good-humoredly replied, "Like the boy who stubbed his toe too badly to laugh and was too big to cry."

The joint debates with Douglas had extended his fame, and invitations came from all the Northern States for his services.

On May 10, 1859, the Republican Convention was held in Decatur, Macon

County, Ill., to which Lincoln was a delegate. As soon as his tall, lanky form appeared on the platform the whole of the company assembled rose and cheered themselves hoarse, "as if they would never stop," said one who was present.

When order was restored, the Governor of Illinois, Richard Oglesby, said, "An old-time Macon County Democrat wished to present a contribution to the Convention." This announcement aroused the curiosity of the delegates.

When the "contribution" was brought in by Thomas Hanks, it was found to consist of two ancient-looking fence-rails decorated with the national colors. On the rails was an inscription: "Abraham Lincoln, the Rail Candidate for the Presidency in 1860. Two rails from a lot of three thousand made in 1830 by Thomas Hanks and Abe Lincoln, whose father was Thomas Lincoln, the first pioneer in Macon County." The contribution was received with cheers and yells and the wildest enthusiasm.

From that day Lincoln was hailed as the Rail Splitter of Illinois, though some who knew his anti-slavery principles asked anxiously, "Would he split the Union as he did the rails?"

In the winter of 1859-60 he visited Kansas. Tremendous enthusiasm everywhere greeted him. Great processions followed him from halls to his hotels.

In Ohio he spoke several times, and being near the border, he spoke to the Kentuckians and asked, "Are you going to build up a wall some way between your country and ours by which that movable property of yours can't come over here any more to the danger of your losing it?"

Lincoln had entertained a kind of dread of the Eastern people, but he received an invitation from Henry Ward Beecher to speak in Plymouth Church. He accepted the invitation, but the place was afterwards changed to the hall of the Cooper Union, at that time one of the largest halls in the United States.

His style of address was new and fresh, his illustrations so clear that the vast audience was spellbound, until he reached a climax, when the thunders of applause shook the hall. The Illinois backwoodsman had conquered the East.

He concluded his tour with an address to the Republicans. He said:

"Neither let us be slandered from our duty by false accusations against us nor frightened from it by menaces to the Government. Let us have faith that makes right, and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY

THE South was dismayed; threats of secession were in the air, and many wanted the South "reassured," but Lincoln, in his great Cooper Union speech, said to the threatening crowd, "You say you will destroy the Union and then you say the great crime of having destroyed it will be put upon us; that's cool. A highwayman holds a pistol to my ear and mutters through his teeth, 'Stand and deliver or I will kill you and then you will be a murderer.'"

The Republican National Convention met at Chicago, June 17, 1860. Every one felt that a crisis was impending. The Democrats were hopelessly divided on the pro-slavery question. Millions of human beings were bought and sold and in bondage as if they were cattle. The Richmond Convention, composed entirely of pro-slavery Democrats, had nominated John C. Breckenridge. The Regular Democrats, as they called themselves, in Baltimore nominated Stephen A. Douglas.

The Republican Convention could only nominate a man pledged to the principle quoted in Lincoln's utterance, "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Chicago was crowded with strangers from all parts of the Union. "The Wigwam," vast as it was, could hardly hold a tithe of the crowd that struggled around it.

Amidst intense excitement one more plank for the platform was offered by I. R. Giddings, delegate from Ohio. It was the clause from the Declaration of

Independence that "all men are born free and equal." It was accepted, together with the whole of serious and courageous resolutions which had set men's hearts on fire through the campaign, and they were adopted with the wildest enthusiasm, and the ringing cheers of the thousands in the building were taken up in the streets down to the Lake front. On balloting only the names of Seward and Lincoln were received with any great demonstration. On the first ballot Lincoln had 102 votes, on the second he gained seventy-six, and on the third he lacked only one and one-half to gain the nomination. Ohio changed four of its votes to Abraham Lincoln. The battle was won. Lincoln was nominated.

After a moment's pause the pent-up feelings of the surging thousands broke all bounds. Men threw away their hats and hugged and kissed each other. Outside, cannon thundered, bells rang. The beloved, the great, grand man was nominated. Later in the day Hannibal Hamlin, of Maine, was nominated for Vice-President.

In Springfield Lincoln quietly waited to hear the news. At length a special telegraph messenger arrived, who, jumping on a table, cried, "Three cheers for Abraham Lincoln, the next President of the United States!" The cheers were given with hearty good-will and rang and reverberated through the streets of the city.

Lincoln shook hands with his friends and neighbors and pocketed the telegram saying, "There is a little woman on Eighth Street would like to see this," and walked home to tell the news.

The Presidential campaign of that year had never been and will never be equalled. The wave of enthusiasm broke all bounds. In the free States rails and rail-splitting were popular symbols.

Lincoln stayed quietly in Springfield. A large room in the Capitol was assigned to him, and he received visitors and transacted business between the June nomination and the election in November; but he made no speeches and no public demonstration; he waited calmly and quietly for the nation's verdict.

When the election returns were in, Lincoln had received 180 electoral votes and a popular vote of 1,866,452, the largest popular vote ever polled up to that time for any Presidential candidate.

Lincoln's elation at his great victory was not unmingled with sadness. He

felt the great responsibility that rested on him; he foresaw the troubles with the South, and all the possible results of the anti-slavery problem, and on the day after his triumph a strange incident happened, but he never told it until after his election for a second term. He said:

“It was just after my election in 1860, when the news had been coming in thick and fast all day, and there had been a great ‘Hurrah, boys!’ so that I was well tired out, and went home to rest, throwing myself down on a lounge in my chamber. Opposite where I lay was a bureau with a swinging glass upon it, and, looking in that glass, I saw myself reflected, nearly at full length; but my face, I noticed, had *two* separate and distinct images, the tip of the nose of one being about three inches from the tip of the other. I was a little bothered, perhaps startled, and got up and looked in the glass, but the illusion vanished. On lying down again I saw it a second time — plainer, if possible, than before; and then I noticed that one of the faces was a little paler, say five shades, than the other. I got up and the thing melted away, and I went off and, in the excitement of the hour, forgot all about it — nearly, but not quite, for the thing would once in a while come up, and give me a little pang, as though something uncomfortable had happened. Later in the day, I told my wife about it, and a few days after, I tried the experiment again, when, sure enough, the thing came again; but I never succeeded in bringing the ghost back after that, though I once tried very industriously to show it to my wife, who was worried about it somewhat. She thought it was ‘a sign’ that I was to be elected to a second term of office, and that the paleness of one of the faces was an omen that I should not see life through the last term.”

Lincoln took this portent as only an optical illusion, but tried in vain to dismiss it from his mind. Its tragic fulfilment is another instance of those strange mysteries which confound the wisest.

LINCOLN AT WASHINGTON

LINCOLN with his family, and accompanied by a few friends, left Springfield for Washington, February 11, 1861. It was with mingled feelings that he left his Illinois home, and he bade a manly and touching farewell to his friends and neighbors, concluding:

"Trusting in Him who will go with me and remain with you and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

On his way from Illinois to the Capitol, wherever his car passed, immense crowds lined the roads and blocked the railroad stations, impatient for a speech, but Lincoln was reluctant to break his rule or to outline his future policy. He spoke but seldom and then but briefly, and mostly asked questions for the people to ponder on, judging it wiser than making declarations or assertions.

The entire route was one continued ovation, as he travelled over the States of Indiana, Ohio, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

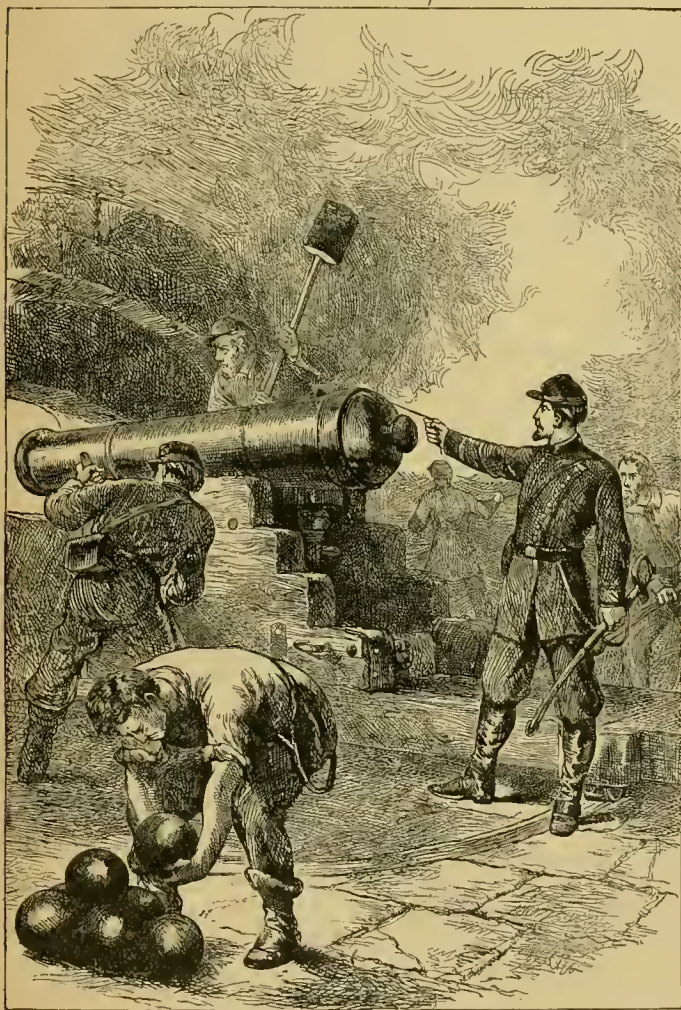
At Philadelphia, according to a previous appointment, he raised a flag over Independence Hall. Later in the day he addressed the Legislature at Harrisburg. Threats of assassination were current, but Lincoln said, "Both of these appointments I will keep if it costs me my life."

Lincoln was inaugurated at the national capital March 4, 1861. The group was one of historic interest, comprising many or most of the notable men of the day. The crowd assembled to see and hear the new President was enormous.

Lincoln's address was most masterly. He dwelt conservatively on the great and burning questions of the day, and he concluded with the pathetic and eloquent words:

"I am loth to close. We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, our bonds of

affection. The mystic cords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."



DEFENSE OF FORT SUMPTER

When Lincoln rose to begin his address, looking for a place for his hat his eye caught that of Douglas, who reached forward and took it. When Lincoln had finished his address he restored it to its owner and at the same time warmly grasped the President's hand and pledged that he would stand by him. The two men clasped hands and were friends ever after.

Lincoln's first Cabinet was a notable one. Four of the members had been candidates for the Presidential nomination; viz., Seward, Chase, Bates and Cameron. Mr. Seward was a man of great following and of great ability, and there were many who supposed that Seward would be the power behind

the President, but Lincoln soon proved to Seward and the world that he alone was President of the United States.

Lincoln was now installed in the White House, but the times and the circumstances were most perilous. The Rebel Congress, assembled at Mont-

gomery, had sent commissioners to Washington, as if they were representatives of a foreign country, to negotiate a treaty with the Federal Government. Lincoln refused to receive them. They delayed their departure as long as possible, but after receipt of Mr. Seward's memorandum formally telling them that they could not be recognized by the Government of the United States, the commissioners in their reply said, referring to the President's intention to send relief to Fort Sumter, that this was in effect a declaration of war against the Confederate States, and that as representatives of their people "they accepted the gage of battle which had been thrown down to them." But Lincoln made no sign. He waited for the Confederate States to fire the first gun. Many men in the North clamored for a vigorous policy, but Lincoln was determined that the overt act for which both sides were waiting should come from the Confederate States.

North and South both looked to Fort Sumter. The Confederates regarding its continued occupation as a menace to Charleston, and as being within the limits of the Confederacy, it was now the property of the seceded States as a part of their share of the joint property of the divided Union.

A demand was made on Major Anderson, who was in command of the fort, for its surrender, but he declined. He was then asked if he would evacuate the fort. He replied if he did not receive instructions or succor from the North before the 15th he would leave it on that day. Beauregard sent a dispatch, dated Charleston, April 12, 1861, 3.30 A. M., that in one hour he would open fire on the fort. Having a force of but sixty-five, and those nearly famished, Major Anderson, after a few brief replies to the fierce cannonading of the rebels, on the following day, April 13th, raised the flag for the last time and saluted with fifty guns. Then the brave soldiers marched out and the Confederacy was in possession of Fort Sumter.

Lincoln, by his long-suffering patience, had achieved his point—the "overt act" had been committed by the Confederates, and in an instant, the whole of the North was united as one man. All party distinctions were swept aside; no one would listen to any compromise; the loyal people everywhere demanded that the insult should be avenged.

With this decisive act, Lincoln rose to the occasion. Before the firing on

Fort Sumter he had seen his darkest days, and was depressed at the thought of impending war, but the voice of the sovereign people stimulated and encouraged the President. The whole people were at his back. God had prepared the man for the hour.

Events crowded in rapid succession. Troops marching to the relief of Washington were fired on in Baltimore and several of the soldiers were killed. The President, by a proclamation dated April 19, 1861, declared the ports of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina in a state of blockade. A week later Virginia and North Carolina were added to the list of blockaded ports.

In this juncture, Stephen A. Douglas died on the 3d of June. Douglas had warmly commended Lincoln's course and had a memorable interview with the President. In the month following Douglas addressed large meetings in Ohio and Illinois to strengthen the administration. Towards the end of May he sickened and was ill but a few days and died on the 3d of June, greatly lamented by all, and by none more than by Lincoln, his old-time opponent.

Jefferson Davis, a man of culture, himself an aristocrat, moving in the highest social circles, was pitted against Abe Lincoln, the backwoodsman of Illinois; war was on, the issues sharply defined. Davis and the Confederacy contended for the State rights as against the Union. Lincoln contended more logically that the whole was greater than a part, that the nation composed of the several States had paramount authority, and that no State could leave the Union and so dissolve the bond without committing thereby an act of treason.

The Battle of Bull Run, on the 19th to the 21st of July, was the opening of the four years' war and was a great disaster to the North. The troops of the Union were raw and undisciplined, their three months' service was in many cases nearly expired and their military enthusiasm had well-nigh evaporated. They were from the counter or the farm and were impatient of military restrictions, and to add to this trouble, the officers were mainly from civil life and poorly acquainted with their duties.

The Confederates, on the other hand, though their troops were as untrained as the Northern men, had many capable officers who had been educated in the military service.

The Union forces were commanded by General Irvin McDowell, while the Confederates were commanded by General Joseph E. Johnston and General Beauregard.

The first success was with the Union troops, but Johnston was not held in check by General Patterson, who commanded a contingent of the Union Army. The Union lines weakened and the troops broke and fled in wildest confusion, abandoning their arms, and crowded into Washington over the Potomac with exaggerated stories of defeat.

Congress was in session at the time of the Battle of Bull Run. The President asked for men and money. The Congress appropriated five hundred million dollars and authorized him to call for five hundred thousand men. The nation now saw that it was to be a fight to the finish.

The United States seemed likely to have her hands full, for on November 8, 1861, Captain Wilkes, commander of the "San Jacinto," United States man-of-war, fired a shot across the bow of the "Trent," an English packet-ship, and took from her two Confederate envoys to England and France, who had taken passage on the "Trent."

The seizure created the most intense excitement. The people everywhere looked upon it as an answer to the English and French Governments, who were not very friendly to the Union cause. Great Britain demanded that the envoys should be given up, as they were under the protection of the British flag. The unanimous cry was, "We will never give them up." Congress passed a vote of thanks to Captain Wilkes.

But Lincoln, calm as ever in the face of popular clamor, looked carefully into the case and decided that the envoys must be given up, for, said he, "Once we fought Great Britain for doing just what Captain Wilkes has done; if Great Britain protests against this act and demands their release, we must adhere to our principles of 1812 — we must give up these prisoners. Besides, one war at a time."

Lincoln's wise counsel at length won the day — the envoys were surrendered.

In 1862 came up the question of arming the freedmen. There were many thousands employed in the camp and Lincoln said, "If they stake their life



PRESIDENT LINCOLN SIGNING A PAPER

for us they must be prompted by the strongest of motives, even the promise of freedom, and the promise being made must be kept." Meanwhile the Confederate Army under General Lee had achieved more notable successes, and had crossed the Potomac into Maryland. This was an invasion of a border State still loyal to the Union. The country was greatly stirred, and Lincoln had prepared the draft of an emancipation proclamation, but hesitated to put it forth; but at this menace to the national capital, he vowed to God if the invaders were expelled he would at once issue the long-deferred proclamation.



DRAFTING THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

At the Battle of South Mountain, on the 14th, and that of Antietam, on the 17th of September, the Confederates were beaten and routed. They retreated across the Potomac, and Maryland and Pennsylvania were saved. On the 22d of September, 1862, the President issued his glorious Emancipation Proclamation breaking the shackles of the slaves.

The Emancipation Proclamation was hailed everywhere with great rejoicing throughout the free States over what was felt to be the downfall of slavery. The final issue of the Proclamation was on January 1, 1863.

During the events that led up to the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln was in great trouble as to the military situation. General McClellan, who was yet but thirty-six years of age, was a favorite with the army and the people, who hailed him as "the young Napoleon." As early as 1861 he had 147,695 men, and levies almost immediately to arrive would swell the number to 168,318. The President had strained his authority to the utmost in collecting a force to defend the capital and to organize an army sufficiently large to act on the aggressive.

Lincoln had conceived the plan to blockade the entire coast-line of the Confederate States, to occupy the border States so as to repel invasion and to clear the Mississippi, thus relieving the West by opening its natural outlet to the seas.

Events rapidly succeeded each other. Grant had taken and destroyed Belmont, Fort Henry and Fort Donelson had fallen, Floyd and Buckner at Fort Donelson had asked Grant for terms of surrender, but he had replied, "No terms other than unconditional surrender." Floyd fled in the night and Buckner surrendered twelve thousand prisoners and great quantities of military stores. On the 6th of April was fought the bloody Battle of Shiloh; the carnage exceeded any battle in the world's history. General Albert Sidney Johnston was killed and many distinguished officers on both sides, and the starry flag floated over the recovered States of Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky and Tennessee. Admiral Farragut, after bombarding the impregnable fortifications of New Orleans, with equal audacity and skill, had safely run past them and destroyed the rebel fleet, and ascending the Mississippi had appeared before the city of New Orleans.

But McClellan still remained inactive before Washington, with his large and costly force. Lincoln was anxiously consulting the generals, visiting McClellan often at his headquarters, trying to persuade the General to move the army that still maintained so brilliant a show on the banks of the Potomac. When this movement seemed impossible, he said, "If General McClellan has no use for the Army of the Potomac I should like to borrow it for a little while."

At this time Lincoln was greatly affected by the illness of his two boys.

Tad rallied and recovered, but Willie, a bright and beautiful boy of eleven years, died. The blow was heavy and hard to bear.

The Confederates now had changed front, and the President and the Council of War had directed that the new base should be at Fortress Monroe, near which the famous fight between the "Merrimac" and the "Monitor" had taken place and the "Merrimac" had been beaten back to Norfolk.

Still nothing was done by McClellan, and Lincoln, astounded at this inexplicable sluggishness, on the 25th of May, telegraphed to McClellan, "I think the time is near when you must either attack Richmond or give up the job."

The country, in spite of all his delay and inactivity and his repeated disobedience of orders, still believed in the "young Napoleon," who at the opening of the war had achieved name and fame, and Lincoln, with his characteristic patience, was reluctant to remove McClellan while there was a chance of his retrieving himself, and it was not until he had worn out his reputation that he was removed.

THE TURN OF THE TIDE

MCCLELLAN was succeeded by General Ambrose Burnside as Commander of the Army of the Potomac. He was every inch a soldier and had proved his mettle at the Battle of Antietam, but still he assumed the command with many misgivings.

The General planned a sudden and aggressive movement towards Richmond by Fredericksburg, on the Rappahannock, but owing to a delay in the arrival of pontoons Lee occupied the heights above the city and before Burnside was ready with his pontoon bridges he was confronted with Lee's whole force. In the face of almost insurmountable difficulties, with Lee's artillery commanding every approach from the opposite side of the river, the assault was made, but he was repulsed with terrible slaughter. Washington was filled with the wounded, and churches and public buildings were turned into hospitals, full of the wounded and the dying.

The turn of the tide was during the month of July, 1863. General Grant was attracting attention throughout the Union. He was assailed with slander and detraction; it was said that he was intemperate. Lincoln replied that he would like to send some of the same liquor to other generals of the army. Grant took command before Vicksburg and effected a combined operation by land and water. The fleet of gunboats ran the gauntlet of the batteries under a terrific fire and effected a junction with the Union troops that had been marched down by land, thus completely investing the city, which finally surrendered with a large force and an immense store of military supplies. This great victory caused a wave of joy to sweep through the North. The Mississippi flowed unvexed to the sea. The Confederacy was broken in twain.

Meade had succeeded at Gettysburg. The battle raged all day on the 1st of July, neither army having secured a decided advantage. The lines were reformed during the night and the battle on the 3d of July decided the fate of the Rebel Army. After a terrible struggle Lee's army retired, but in good order. The rebel invasion was repulsed with great slaughter.

Lee escaped by means of improvised pontoon bridges. In spite of this the Battle of Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg were taken as harbingers of coming peace.

In October Grant assumed command of the Army of the Mississippi with Sheridan and Sherman in subordinate commands. The battles of Missionary Ridge, Lookout Mountain and Chattanooga followed. Burnside was shut up in Tennessee, and great fear was felt on his account. When one day the long silence was broken by an urgent call for succor, Lincoln, relieved to find that Burnside was still safe, said it reminded him of a woman who lived in a forest-clearing in Indiana in which some of her children were continually being lost. When she heard a squawl from one of them in the distance, although she knew that the child was in danger, perhaps frightened by a rattlesnake, she would say, "Thank God! there's one of my young ones that's not lost."

Sherman relieved Burnside, the Confederates under Longstreet were driven back into Virginia, and Tennessee was delivered from the last attempt of the Confederacy to hold the State.



LINCOLN IN RICHMOND AT THE CLOSE OF THE WAR

FOR A SECOND TERM

"I do not think it is wise to swap horses while crossing a stream," Lincoln had said to a friend, respecting his nomination for a second term, and indeed there seemed no one so eligible or capable as Lincoln at this crisis.

An important event of the winter was the appointment of General Grant to the rank of Lieutenant-General, a grade which had originally been created for General Washington, and had been held only by him. It was restored by Congress with the understanding that it was intended to honor General Grant.

Grant had been summoned to Washington to receive his commission, and had been the lion at the President's reception, and when it was known that the hero of Vicksburg was in the room, every one crowded to see the General. When he bade good-night to the President, he said, "This is a warmer campaign than I have witnessed during the war."

The next day the President gave him his commission in the presence of the members of the Cabinet and a few friends. After the close of an important interview with the President, Grant was invited to a dinner at the White House, which Mrs. Lincoln had arranged in his honor, and insisted he must go. "Besides," said he, "I have had enough of this show business, Mr. President."

Hitherto the armies of the West and the East had acted independently, but now they were to be no longer, as Grant said, "like a balky team, no two ever pulling together," and Grant's policy, "to hammer continuously against the armed force of the enemy," was to be the policy of the administration, and Lincoln told Grant, "You are vigilant and self-reliant. Pleased with this, I do not wish to obtrude any restraints or constraints upon you."

Success now generally crowned the Union arms and the Confederates were steadily pressed back on to Richmond. At every fresh victory Lincoln was called to speak to the crowds from the window of the White House. On one of these occasions Lincoln read a despatch from Grant, "Our losses have been heavy as well as those of the enemy, and I propose to fight it out on this line if it takes all summer."

Sherman also had been successful in the west, driving the enemy back into Georgia, winning battle after battle, until finally he invested Atlanta, the important railroad centre, which he required as a base of supplies. Hood, having to drive Sherman to the northward, moved against Tennessee, but was beaten and put to flight.

General Early, of the Confederates, again raided Maryland and was within seven miles of Washington, but Grant sent two army corps, intercepted the rebels and saved Washington from attack.

In August and September, 1864, Sheridan cleared the Valley of the Shenandoah from the rebel raiders, and he did his work so well that, as he said, "A crow flying over the valley would have to carry his rations with him."

Horace Greeley and many Republicans opposed Lincoln's renomination as being too conservative, and some there were who were considering the name of General Grant. Lincoln said, "If the people think that General Grant can end the rebellion sooner by being in this place I shall be very glad to get out of it."

Lincoln had no fears of the people, and the result justified his confidence. By the time the Republican Convention met at Baltimore, June 8, 1864, Lincoln's renomination was assured and he was nominated with tremendous enthusiasm with hardly a dissenting vote. Andrew Johnson was chosen as vice-President, an important choice, in view of subsequent events.

In August, the Democrats at Chicago nominated George B. McClellan. Lincoln had shrewdly said, "They must nominate a war candidate on a peace platform or a peace candidate on a war platform."

The election was an overwhelming triumph for Lincoln. Three States alone, New Jersey, Kentucky and Delaware, recorded hostile votes. Lincoln had 212 electoral votes out of 223, and a clear majority of 411,428. Lincoln replied to the first party who congratulated him, "If I know my heart my gratitude is free from any taint of personal triumph. . . . It is no pleasure to me to triumph over any one, but I give thanks to the Almighty for this evidence of the people's resolution to stand by free government and the rights of humanity."

The second inauguration was on March 4, 1865. The day opened dark and dreary, but when Lincoln rose to deliver his address the sun broke out from the clouds. It was a hopeful omen and Lincoln said of it the next day, "Let's accept it as a good sign," and the thousands there assembled so accepted it, comparing the almost certainty of the end of the war with the doubt and gloom of the first inauguration.

The address made a deep impression on all who heard it, and henceforth Abraham Lincoln had a high place among the world's greatest orators and statesmen.

COLLAPSE OF THE CONFEDERACY

SHERMAN's march to the sea had once more broken the Confederacy. The arms of the Federals had everywhere on land and sea been crowned with success. Charleston had been abandoned. The capture of Port Fisher had virtually cut off their last possible port of supplies on the Atlantic; news had reached Lincoln of Lee having sought an interview with Grant. Sheridan and Grant were closing in on Lee; Petersburg had surrendered; Richmond had fallen. Jefferson Davis, seeing all hope was gone, had fled in disguise, but was captured later and sent a prisoner to Fort Monroe.

Lincoln, as soon as possible after the news reached him of the fall of Richmond, unattended save by the boat's crew from a gunboat near at hand, accompanied only by his son Tad, entered the late capital of the Confederacy.

At the village of the Appomattox Court House, on April 7, 1865, the final act opened. On April 9th Lee surrendered to Grant. There without ceremony or fuss of any kind Lee and Grant met, and the surrender was completed, and the victorious General fed, with Union-Army rations, the well-nigh famished rebel soldiers.

The whole North rejoiced with exceeding great joy, not in triumph over a fallen foe, but with gratitude that the long, sad, cruel war was over.

At Washington, the city made it a general holiday. A great crowd of people dragged howitzers into the grounds of the White House, and at Lincoln's appearance at the window men threw up their hats and cheered and shouted for a speech.

Lincoln raised his hand, and when silence was restored he brushed the tears from his eyes, and briefly congratulated them on the great and happy result, but said he, "Later on there will be a more formal celebration of this momentous event and then I shall have nothing to say if it is all dribbled out of me now."

The people laughed good-humoredly at the homely saying. Lincoln concluded by calling for the "captured tune" of "Dixie," which he said "was ours



LINCOLN VISITING THE HOSPITAL

by the laws of war." Then the President called for three cheers for General Grant and his officers, then three more for the officers and men of the navy. When these were given with a will the crowd dispersed, but reluctantly.

On the 11th was the formal celebration to which Lincoln had alluded. The city was illuminated by the Government. At the White House a vast crowd cheered and shouted. Fireworks hissed and crackled. The guns of the naval batteries fired salutes and brass bands added to the joyous acclaim. An immense crowd gathered at the White House to hear the President's speech. In a few noble yet simple and generous words he gave all honor to General Grant. "No part," said Lincoln, "of the honor of the plan or execution is mine; to General Grant, his skilful officers and brave men all belongs. The gallant navy stood ready, but was not in touch to take an active part."

He then proceeded to discuss the problem of reconstruction in a most powerful oration of argument and appeal in behalf of the liberal policy inaugurated in Louisiana, which, though it was as yet but an experiment, excited the indignation of the politicians. This was Lincoln's last speech to the people.

Two days after Lee's surrender, Grant hastened to Washington to discuss with the War Office measures to stop recruiting and for the reduction of the war charges, at that time amounting to four million dollars a day. On the 14th Grant attended a meeting of the Cabinet, at which was discussed the subject of the Southern States.

The President and Mrs. Lincoln had accepted an invitation to Ford's Theatre for the evening of the 14th, Good Friday, and the President asked the General and Mrs. Grant to accompany them, but a previous personal engagement to see their children, who were at school at Burlington, N. J., prevented them accepting the invitation.

In the afternoon the President drove out with Mrs. Lincoln and was in unusually good spirits; about nine o'clock in the evening the President and Mrs. Lincoln, accompanied by Major Rathbone and a lady, entered his box. Soon after the President and his party had entered, when the cheering had subsided, some one gave a visiting card to the attendant in the corridor, entered the vestibule of the President's box and closed and fastened the door behind him. A moment later the sound of a pistol shot roused the crowded house. A

stranger was seen in the front of the President's box; Major Rathbone grappled with him, but was cut in the arm and lost his hold of the man, who vaulted over the front of the box to the stage. He stumbled as he fell, but instantly recovering himself he hastened across the stage. Turning to the awestruck audience, he brandished the bloody dagger with which he had slashed Major Rathbone, and exclaimed in melodramatic theatre style, "*Sic semper tyrannis!*" ("Ever so to tyrants!") An employee named Edward Spangler held the door open for him; the assassin's horse was held by a boy belonging to the theatre. Booth mounted it with difficulty, for in his jump to the stage he had broken the small bone in his leg, but he rode rapidly away.

The bullet had passed through the brain of the President, stopping just short of the left eye. Unconscious, he was carried to a house opposite the theatre, where he breathed his last at twenty-two minutes past seven o'clock in the morning. The great heart was stilled for ever. Abraham Lincoln was dead.

The assassin, crippled and suffering, evaded pursuit for eleven days, but at length on the 25th of April a squad of cavalry traced him to a barn in Virginia. On his refusal to surrender, one of them aimed through a crack in the door and shot the assassin through the brain. He died the next morning.

Before many days the Government had arrested seven men and a woman, Mary E. Surratt, charged with being in the conspiracy. Mrs. Surratt and three of the men were hanged and three sent to the Dry Tortugas, two for life, Edward Spangler for six years.

Thus Abraham Lincoln met the fate which, as we have seen, had been presented to him on the day after his first election. Threats of assassination had been sent to him again and again, but he refused all protection, saying, "If I am killed, I can die but once; but to live in constant dread of it is to die over and over again."

While the tragedy was enacted at Ford's Theatre, Mr. Seward was attacked in his own home, where he was confined to his bed by an accident. The man obtained admittance as an assistant to the doctor. Throwing himself on the Secretary he stabbed him in the neck and face. He was surprised by Seward's two sons, but wounding them he made his escape.

No doubt the conspiracy was wide-spread, and the plan was to remove by

violence the President, General Grant, Mr. Seward and Secretary Stanton, in the idea that the sudden distraction would cause the collapse of the Government, and that anarchy would be the result.

The sun rose red and bright over Washington on the morning of the 15th, as the body of Abraham Lincoln was borne, followed by a group of sorrowing,



THE ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN

silent, stern-faced men, to the White House. Grief and revenge for this crime struggling for the mastery was the twofold feeling which swept over the land. Flags everywhere were lowered to half-mast. Bells were tolled, minute-guns fired, all business was suspended and for days the nation was absorbed in its mighty grief.

On Wednesday, April 19th, Lincoln lay in state in the Capitol in the rotunda, guarded by high officers of the army and navy and a detachment of soldiers. Many thousands passed the bier to take a last look at their beloved President.

Lincoln was buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois. Two thousand miles were traversed; the people lined the entire route, standing with uncovered heads as the train swept by, guarded to his grave by bronzed and battle-scarred generals of the war. His body was laid to rest near his old home, and in due time a marble monument was raised by the loving hands of the people whom, under God, he had saved.

The whole civilized world was arrested in its daily course by this tragic calamity. Friends and neighbors all had loved "Honest Abe Lincoln."

From all the States and cities of the Union, and from emperors and kings and queens, from legislative assemblies, from people of all ranks, and from conventions of the plain people of many lands, came messages of condolence, respect and sorrow — an unprecedented and spontaneous tribute to the spotless, unselfish and heroic life of Abraham Lincoln.

ANECDOTES OF LINCOLN

A HORSE STORY

James Larkin, one of young Lincoln's neighbors, one day was bragging about his horse.

"I've got about the best horse in the county," said he to young Abe. "I ran him nine miles in three minutes, and he never fetched a long breath."

"I guess," said Abe dryly, "he fetched a good many short ones, though."

NO VICES — FEW VIRTUES

Lincoln one day rode in a stage with an old Kentuckian, who socially offered some tobacco and French brandy. Lincoln declined both.

When they separated, the Kentuckian said, "See here, stranger, I don't want to offend you, but my experience has taught me that a man who has no vices has but d — d few virtues."

KEPT HIS PART OF THE BARGAIN

No matter who was with the President, Tad was always welcome, and he generally accompanied his father. Once on the way to Fort Monroe with a party, Tad was very troublesome, so at length the President said:

"Tad, if you will be a good boy and not disturb me till we get to Fort Monroe, I'll give you a dollar."

The hope of reward was effectual only a short time and Tad was soon as noisy as ever, but when they reached the fort, Tad said, very promptly:

"Father, I want my dollar."

Lincoln looked at him for an instant, then giving him the dollar, he said: "Well, my son, at any rate I will keep my part of the bargain."

GOD KNOWS WHEN

An old copybook of Lincoln's has the following, written when fourteen years old:

"'Tis Abraham Lincoln holds the pen.
He will be good, but God knows when!"

COME TO SUPPER

Lincoln was receiving a delegation, and Tad came into the room and putting his mouth to his father's ear and his hand to his mouth, said in a boy's whisper, "Ma says come to supper."

All heard the announcement, and Lincoln said, "You see, gentlemen, if I am elected, it will never do to make this young man a member of my Cabinet, for it is plain he cannot be trusted with State secrets."

WHICH SIDE SHOULD BE IN FRONT

Once, on a trial, his opponent pulled off his coat and vest as he grew warm, which was admissible in frontier courts.

At that time shirts opening at the back were unusual. Lincoln, knowing the prejudice of primitive people for any affectation of superior social rank, when he made his address in reply, said:

"Gentlemen of the jury, having justice on my side I don't think you will be at all influenced by the gentleman's pretended knowledge of the law, when you see he does not even know which side of his shirt should be in front." There was a general laugh and Lincoln's case was won.

HER ONLY FAULT

Major Hill charged Lincoln with making defamatory remarks about his wife, and was very insulting.

When Lincoln got a chance to edge in a word he replied that he entertained a high opinion of Mrs. Hill and the only thing he knew to her discredit was in her being Major Hill's wife.,

HERNDON'S HALF

Lincoln never kept any account book. If any one paid him any money on account of the firm, on arriving at the office he would divide with his partner, or if not there, he would wrap his share in a piece of paper and place it in his partner's drawer, marking it *Roe vs. Doe* — Herndon's half.

PASSES TO RICHMOND

A gentleman asked the President for a pass to Richmond before the fall of that city. "I should be very happy to oblige you," said the President, "if my passes were respected, but the fact is that within the past two years I have given passes to 250,000 men and not one has got there yet."

SHOOTING WON'T DO HIM ANY GOOD

Judge Kellog, hearing that a young townsman was to be shot the next day for a serious misdemeanor, went to Mr. Stanton and urged in the strongest manner for a reprieve, but the Secretary was inexorable.

Leaving the War Department he went to the White House. Mr. Lincoln had retired, but on pledging himself to take the consequences of the act, the judge pressed his way through all obstacles to the President's bedroom, and in an excited manner he stated that he had just received the announcement of the hour of execution.

"This man must not be shot, Mr. President. I can't help what he has done," said he. "Why, he is an old townsman of mine. I cannot allow him to be shot."

Mr. Lincoln had remained quietly in bed listening to his old friend's protestations. At length he said:

"Well, I don't believe shooting will do him any good. Give me that pen."

So saying, the President again cut the red tape, and another poor fellow's life was saved.

LINCOLN'S KINDLY SIDE IN WAR

A lady was so thankful for the release of her husband that she was in the act of kneeling in thankfulness. "Get up," said the President; "don't kneel to me, but thank God, and go."

An old lady for the same reason came forward with tears in her eyes. Said she, "Good-bye, Mr. Lincoln; I shall probably never meet you again till we meet in Heaven. The President was deeply moved. She had the President's hand in hers. Following her to the door, he said, "If I ever get to the resting place you speak of, I am sure I shall meet you there."

A woman plainly clad insisted on seeing the President. Father and son were both in the army. Would he not discharge the latter and let him go home to help his mother?

A few strokes of the pen, a gentle nod of the head, and the little woman, her eyes filling with tears, expressed the grateful thanks she could not speak.

COULD NOT SIGN DEATH WARRANTS

In the early part of the war, Lincoln wrote a pardon for a young soldier who had been sentenced to death for sleeping at his post. He remarked to a friend, "I could not go into eternity with that young boy's blood on my skirts." Then he added, "It is not to be wondered at that a boy raised on a farm and going to bed at dark should fall asleep when set to watch. I cannot consent to have him shot for such an act."

Said an officer, "The first week of my command there were twenty-four deserters sentenced by court-martial to be shot, but the President refused to sign the death-warrants.

"I went to Washington and had an interview. I said:

"'Mr. President, unless these men are made examples of, the army itself is in danger. Mercy to the few is cruelty to the many.'

"He replied, 'Mr. General, there are already too many weeping widows in the United States. For God's sake don't ask me to add to their number, for I won't do it.'"

A HORSE TRADE

Lincoln and a certain judge got bantering each other about trading horses, and they agreed to make a trade without either of them seeing the other's horse, and no backing out under forfeiture of twenty-five dollars.

When Lincoln was seen coming with a wooden sawhorse on his shoulder, great laughter ensued in the crowd, which was increased when Lincoln, on surveying the judge's horse, said:

"Well, Judge, this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade."

LOST HIS HEAD

Jefferson Davis insisted on being recognized as President in the negotiations with Washington, and Mr. Lincoln refused consent. Mr. Hunter referred to the correspondence between Charles I and his parliament as a precedent.

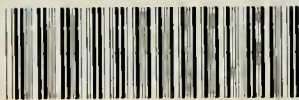
Mr. Lincoln, with one of his hardest hits, replied, "Upon questions of history I must refer you to Mr. Seward, who is posted in such matters, and I don't profess to be; but my only distinct recollection is that King Charles lost his head."

TOO KNOTTY TO SPLIT

One day Governor —— went to the War Department in a towering rage. A friend said to the President: "I suppose you found it difficult to make large concessions to him."

"Oh, no," he replied, "I did not make anything. You have heard of that Illinois farmer who got rid of a big log that was too big to haul out, too knotty to split and too wet and soggy to burn. In response to his neighbors, who wanted to know how he got rid of it, he said, 'Well, boys, if you won't divulge the secret, I'll tell you how I got rid of it — I ploughed around it!' Now," he said, "don't tell anybody, but that's how I got rid of the Governor. I ploughed round him and I was afraid every minute he'd see what I was at."

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